

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant's have canceled claims 1-38 without prejudice and have submitted new claims 39-76. Applicants note for the record that new claims 39-76 are directed to the same subject matter as canceled claims 1-38, but are written in a format more closely aligned with typical U.S. practice. Accordingly, canceling claims 1-38 in favor of new claims 39-76 does not evince an intent to surrender any subject matter. Furthermore, as indicated above, claims 1-38 have not been canceled for any substantial reason related to patentability and Applicants do not believe that new claims 39-76 are necessarily any narrower in scope than canceled claims 1-38.

Applicants also have reduced the number of words in the Abstract to conform to the word count requirements for abstracts in U.S. applications.

Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not introduce new matter, and entry thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, claims 39-76 are presented for the Examiner's consideration on the merits.

Dated this 30th day of November, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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